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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Food Distribution Programs Branch
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MONTHLY FOOD SUPPLY REPORT - OCTOBER 1946

Reports on the adequacy of food supplies in relation to demand during the first week of October show a pronounced general shortage of meats, canned fish, fats, oils, rice and soap but generally adequate supplies of cheese, eggs, chicken, canned citrus juices, fresh oranges, potatoes, cabbage and canned and frozen peas and beans (except limas). Supplies of sugar were insufficient to meet ration demand in approximately one-half the areas reporting. It should be noted that this information reflects conditions prior to the removal of price controls on meats and other food products later in October.

The 204 reports summarized in this analysis are based on information gathered during the first week of October by field representatives of the Production and Marketing Administration at meetings of food advisory committees and by direct communication with the food trades. The number of area reports received from each of the five regions is as follows: northeast 26; midwest 60; south 47; southwest 39; and west 32.

The analysis, as in the past, is divided into three parts. Part I is a narrative summary of the month's developments. Part II sets forth percentage figures for each region, dividing commodities into three groups: generally scarce, generally adequate, and unbalanced. It must be remembered that these percentages are based on the number of areas reporting the situation, rather than on quantitative measures of the supply. Furthermore, each area report is given equal weight in computing regional and U.S. totals. Thus, shortage situations or differences among regions may be exaggerated. Part III shows the food availability situation in 28 selected localities.

The three categories of adequacy of supplies used in this survey are defined as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Scarce: | Supply is less than three-quarters of current demand. |
| Adequate: | Supply is more than three-quarters of current demand but not sufficiently in excess of demand to cause excessive inventories. |
| Surplus: | Supplies available in quantities greater than demand. Inventories heavy and rapidly becoming excessive in view of current level of demand. |

PART I - Adequacy of Food Supplies

Fruits and Vegetables

Canned Fruits: Canned fruits remained scarce in practically all reporting areas during early October. Of the four major fruits, canned pineapple was scarce in all areas; pears were scarce in 99 per cent; fruit cocktail in 95 per cent and peaches in 78 per cent of the areas. Canned peaches were more readily available than in the previous month.

Canned Juices: Supplies of grapefruit juice, orange juice, and orange-grapefruit blended juice were meeting the demand in practically all reporting areas. Grapefruit juice was reported surplus in 11 per cent of the reporting areas in the south. Tomato juice was scarce in 36 per cent of the reporting areas compared with 52 per cent in September. Pineapple juice continued scarce in almost all areas.

Canned Vegetables: Canned green and wax beans and canned peas were generally adequate throughout the country and showed slight increases in availability from a month earlier. Canned corn was scarce in 48 per cent of the reporting areas and canned tomatoes in 81 per cent.

Frozen Foods: Supplies of frozen fruits were slightly more readily available in early October than the previous month. Apricots were generally adequate in all regions except the south and peaches were adequate except in the south and northeast. Frozen strawberries were scarce in 60 per cent of the reporting areas. Supplies of frozen vegetables improved slightly as compared with the previous month. Frozen snap beans, frozen cut corn, frozen peas, and frozen spinach were adequate or surplus in 86, 78, 88, and 92 per cent of the reporting areas respectively. Frozen lima beans were scarce in 58 per cent of the areas.

Dried Foods: Dried prune and raisin supplies were not meeting demand throughout the country as a whole and decreases in availability were apparent as compared with early September. Dry beans were insufficient to meet the demand in 93 per cent of the reporting areas.

Fresh Foods: Irish potatoes and cabbage continued to be reported adequate or surplus in practically all areas. A surplus of potatoes was reported in 34 to 40 per cent of the areas in each of the five regions. A surplus of cabbage was reported in 12 per cent of the areas for the country as a whole. Surpluses were reported in each region. Oranges continued to be adequate or surplus in over 90 per cent of the reporting areas.

Meats: During the first week of October supplies of meats of all types were reported scarce in almost all areas with generally decreased availability in all regions as compared with early September. Beef steaks, beef roasts, hamburger, and veal were scarce in 98 per cent of the reporting areas. Pork loin chops, and roasts, fresh and cured ham and shoulder, and bacon were reported scarce in all reporting areas. Salted fat cuts, cold cuts, and canned meats were scarce in 99, 85, and 94 per cent of the reporting areas, respectively.

Fish: Fresh and frozen fish were adequate or surplus in 69 per cent of the areas for the country as a whole; however, supplies were sufficient to meet general demands in only 46 and 60 per cent of the areas in the southwest and west, respectively. Canned salmon, tuna, and sardines continued scarce in practically all areas.

Dairy Products: Although for the country as a whole butter supplies were meeting demand, generally availability decreased as compared with the previous month and in the South only 55 per cent of the areas reported supplies as adequate. The availability of cheeses and evaporated milk was approximately the same as a month earlier. About 80 per cent of the areas reported supplies as adequate or being surplus. Margarine was reported scarce in 99 per cent, lard, shortening, and salad oils in 100 per cent of all reporting areas.

Soaps: Soaps and washing powders continued to be scarce in relation to demand in practically all areas throughout the country.

Sugar: For the country as a whole the supply of sugar was insufficient to meet ration demand in 51 per cent of the reporting areas, a lower percentage than in early September. Only in the midwest and west were supplies reported generally adequate.

Other Items: Shell eggs were adequate or surplus in 84 per cent of the reporting areas compared with 87 per cent during early September. Chicken supplies were adequate in 78 per cent of the reporting areas compared with 93 per cent a month ago. Rice continued scarce in 96 per cent of the areas. Supplies of wheat flour and bread were sufficient to meet demand in almost all areas but corn meal supplies were scarce in 50 per cent of the reporting areas.

PART II - NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SITUATION BY COMMODITIES

FOODS THAT ARE GENERALLY SCARCE (A) — reported scarce by at least one-third of the areas in all five regions. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting, and are not averages of the regional percentages.

Percent Reporting Scarce Supplies

<u>Fruits and Vegetables</u>	<u>U. S.</u>	<u>N. E.</u>	<u>M. W.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>S. W.</u>	<u>W.</u>
Canned Fruit Cocktail	95	96	93	100	90	94
Canned Peaches	78	92	82	72	80	69
Canned Pears	99	100	98	100	100	94
Canned Pineapple	100	100	100	100	100	100
Canned Pineapple Juice	98	100	98	100	97	94
Canned Tomatoes	81	96	82	77	74	84
Frozen Strawberries	60	73	60	71	47	46
Frozen Lima Beans	58	38	64	62	66	46
Dried Raisins	72	77	80	57	77	71
Dry Beans	93	100	88	100	95	81
<u>Meats, Fish, Fats & Oils</u>						
Beef Steak	98	100	100	100	97	90
Beef Roasts	98	100	100	100	97	90
Hamburger	98	100	100	100	97	90
Veal: Steaks, Chops, & Roasts	98	100	100	100	97	90
Lamb: " " "	97	100	100	100	92	93
Pork: Loin Chops and Roasts	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ham & Shoulder, Fresh	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ham & Shoulder, Cured	100	100	100	100	100	100
Salted Fat Cuts	99	96	100	100	100	100
Bacon	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cold Cuts, Bologna, Salami, etc.	85	100	95	77	76	77
Canned Meats	94	96	97	96	92	90
Canned Salmon	99	100	100	100	100	94
Canned Tuna	97	100	98	96	97	94
Canned Sardines	96	92	95	100	97	91
Margarine	99	100	100	100	100	94
Lard	100	100	100	100	100	100
Shortening	100	100	100	100	100	100
Salad Oils	100	100	100	100	100	100
<u>Miscellaneous</u>						
Soap: Bar Laundry	99	100	100	98	100	100
Flakes and Granules	99	100	100	100	97	100
Washing Powders	99	96	100	100	97	100
Rice	96	100	100	89	95	94

FOODS THAT ARE GENERALLY ADEQUATE (B) -- reported in adequate or surplus supply by more than two-thirds of the areas in all five regions. Percentages starred include 10 per cent or more "surplus" reports; those double-starred include 25 per cent or more. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting and are not averages of the regional percentages.

Percent Reporting Adequate or Surplus supplies

<u>Fruits and Vegetables</u>	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>N. E.</u>	<u>M. W.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>S.W.</u>	<u>W.</u>
Canned Grapefruit Juice	99	100	100	100*	95	100
Canned Orange Juice	99	100	100	100	97	97
Canned Orange-Grapefruit Juice	96	100	100	100	90	87
Canned Peas, Green and Wax	91	96	85	98	95	84
Canned Peas	95	100	98	91	92	94
Frozen Snap Beans	86	96	84	74	89	96
Frozen Peas	88	96	93	76	91	85
Frozen Spinach	92	96	93	88	89	100
Fresh Oranges	91	81	97	81	95	100
Irish Potatoes	100**	100**	100**	100**	100**	100**
Fresh Cabbage	99*	100*	100*	100	97	100*

Dairy & Poultry Products,

Cereals

Cheeses (all types)	77	85	80	81	73	77
Shell Eggs	84	85	75	94	84	83
Chicken	78	88	81	72	68	83
Wheat Flour	94	94	100	95	94	87
Bread	99	94	100	100	97	100

FOODS THAT ARE UNBALANCED (U) -- reported adequate or surplus in more than two-thirds of the areas in one to four regions, scarce in other regions. National figures are based on the actual number of areas reporting, and are not averages of the regional percentages.

Percent Reporting Adequate or Surplus Supplies

<u>Fruits and Vegetables</u>	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>N.E.</u>	<u>M.W.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>S.W.</u>	<u>W.</u>
Canned Corn	52	31	75	34	39	72
Canned Tomato Juice	64	62	58	77	64	56
Frozen Apricots	67	69	73	51	74	72
Frozen Peaches	67	54	74	49	74	81
Frozen Cut Corn	78	85	82	57	80	92
Dried Prunes	60	46	64	51	72	64

Fish, Dairy Products

Fish, Fresh and Frozen	69	85	72	81	46	60
Butter	76	88	91	55	79	68
Evaporated Milk	80	81	90	64	70	94

Miscellaneous

Sugar	49	8	71	11	47	100
Corn Meal	50	41	55	79	37	26

PART III - LOCAL SITUATIONS

Supplies are indicated as follows: A - Scarce; B - Adequate; C - Surplus; N - No Answer. Letters in parenthesis after commodities refer to groups shown in Part II: (A) - Generally Scarce; (B) - Generally Adequate; (U) - Unbalanced.

Product	Balti- more, Md.	Bos- ton, Mass.	Buf- falo, N.Y.	Hard- ford, Conn.	New York, N.Y.	Phil- adel- phia, Pa.	Port- land, Me.	Chi- cago, Ill.	Cleve- land, Ohio	De- troit, Mich.	St. Louis, Mo.	At- lan- ta, Ga.	Char- les- ton, S. C.
Fruit Cocktail (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A
Peaches (A)	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	A	A	A	A
Pears (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Pineapple (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Grapefruit Juice (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	B	B	B
Orange Juice (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	B	B	B
Orange-Grapefruit Juice (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	B	B	B
Pineapple Juice (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Beans, Green and Wax (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Corn (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Peas (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Tomatoes (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Tomato Juice (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Frozen Apricots (U)	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Peaches (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Strawberries (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Beans, Lima (A)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Beans, Snap (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Corn, Cut (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Peas (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Spinach (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Dried Peaches (U)	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Raisins (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Dry Beans (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Oranges (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Potatoes, Irish (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Cabbage (Z)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B

Products	Balti- more, Md.	Bos- ton, Mass.	Buf- falo, N.Y.	Hart- ford, Conn.	New York, N.Y.	Phil- adel- phia, Pa.	Port- land, Me.	Chi- cago, Ill.	Cleve- land, Ohio	De- troit, Mich.	Wis- con- sin, Neb.	St. Louis, Mo.	At- lan- ta, Ga.	Char- les- ton, S.C.
Beef: Steak (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Roasts (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Hamburger (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Veal: Steaks, Chops, & Roasts (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Lamb: Steaks, Chops, & " (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Pork: Chops, Loin, & Roasts (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Ham & Shoulder, Fresh (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Ham & Shoulder, Cured (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Salted Fat Cuts (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Eicon (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cold Cuts, bologna, etc. (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Canned Meats (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Fish, Fresh and Frozen (U)	B	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	A	A	B	B	B	B
Canned: Salmon (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Tuna (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sardines (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Butter (U)	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Cheese (all types) (E)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Evaporated Milk (U)	B	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Margarine (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Lard (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Shortening (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Salad Oils (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Bar Laundry Soap (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Flores & Granules (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Washing Powder (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sugar (U)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Eggs, Shell (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Chicken (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Rice (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Corn Meal (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Wheat Flour (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Bread (E)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B

Product	Jack- son- ville, Fla.	Ky.	Tenn.	Ala.	Va.	Texas	Mo- bile, Term.	North- fork, La.	Fort Worth, Texas	Den- ver, Colo.	Hous- ton, Texas	New Or- leans, La.	Los An- geles, Cal.	Phoe- nix, Ariz.	Port- land, Ore.	Salt- Lake City, Utah	San- Fran- cisco, Calif.	Seat- tle, Wash.
Fruit Cocktail (A)	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	A
Peaches (A)	B	B	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A	B	A	B	A	A	B	B	A
Pears (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Pineapple (A)	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	A
Grapefruit Juice (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Orange Juice (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	B
Orange-Grapefruit Juice (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	B
Pineapple Juice (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Beans, Green and Wax (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Corn (U)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B
Peas (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Tomatoes (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Tomato Juice (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Frozen Apricots (U)	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Peaches (U)	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Strawberries (A)	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Beans, Lima (A)	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Beans, Snap (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Corn, Cut (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Peas, (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Spinach (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Dried Prunes (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Raisins (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Dry Beans (A)	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Oranges (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Potatoes, Irish (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Cabbage (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B

Product	Jack- son- ville, Fla.	Louis- ville, Ky.	Mem- phis, Tenn.	Mo- bile, Ala.	Nor- folk, Va.	Port Forth, Texas	Den- ver, Colo.	Hous- ton, Texas	New Or- leans, La.	New Hos- pita, Cal.	Phoe- nix, Ariz.	Port- land, Ore.	Salt San- Diego, Calif.	Seat- tle, Wash.
Beef Steak (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Roasts (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Hamburger (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Veal: Steaks, Chops, & Roasts (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Lamb: " " (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Pork: Chops, Loins, & Roasts (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Ham & Shoulder, Fresh (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Ham & Shoulder, Cured (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Salted Fat Cuts (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Bacon (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cold Cuts, bologna, etc. (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Canned Meats (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Fish, Fresh and Frozen (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Canned: Salmon (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Tuna (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sardines (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Butter (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Cheese (all types) (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Evaporated Milk (U)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Margarine (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Lard (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Shortening (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Salad Oils (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Hot Laundry Soap (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Flakes and Granules (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Washing Powder (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Sugar (U)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Eggs, Shell (A)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Chicken (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Rice (A)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Corn Meal (U)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Wheat Flour (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Wheat (B)	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B

